THE MINISTER OF STATES IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI ANAND SHARMA): (a) The purpose of sanctioning of films for public exhibition is to protect the viewing public from possible unhealthy influence of uncertified films.

(b) Whereas public exhibition of films is governed by the Cinematograph Act, 1952, television programme/broadcast is regulated under the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and the terms of permission granted to the channel under the Uplinking/Downlinking Guidelines issued by the Central Government.

(c) and (d) There is no provision for pre-censorship of programmes telecast by private TV channels. However, all the private TV channels are required to adhere to the Programme and Advertising Code prescribed under the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and rules framed thereunder. Whereas certification of films by Central Board of Film Certification is as per the Cinematograph Act, 1952 and the Rules and Guidelines framed thereunder. At present there is no move for pre-censorship of TV serials, etc.

Foreign magazines

494. SHRI P.R. RAJAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has allowed printing, publishing and circulation of foreign magazines in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI ANAND SHARMA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government allowed the publication of Indian edition of foreign scientific/technical/speciality magazines/journals/periodicals in the year 2002 and recently in the year 2008, the Government also allowed publication of Indian editions of foreign news magazines dealing with news and current affairs by Indian entity (ies), subject to certain conditions.

The detailed guidelines in this regard are available on the website of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (*www.mib.nic.in*). Till date, permission has been given for publication of 209 Indian editions of foreign scientific/technical/speciality magazines/journals. The list is available on the website of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (*www.mib.nic.in*).

Applications for private TV Channels

495. DR. V. MAITREYAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER of be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of applications pending in his Department for permission to operate private TV Channels, State-wise;

(b) the time frame for clearance of such applications by his Ministry;

(c) whether it is also a fact that there is an inordinate delay in disposal of these applications; and

(d) the steps that are being taken to streamline the process of giving clearances to the pending applications in the minimum stipulated time frame?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI ANAND SHARMA): (a) As on date, applications of 153 TV channels for permission to uplink from India and applications of 27 TV channels, uplinked from abroad, for permission to downlink in India are at various stages of scrutiny in accordance with the existing uplinking and downlinking guidelines. The permissions are granted on an All India basis and not State-wise.

(b) No definite time frame can be indicated as the process includes inter-Ministerial consultation with other concerned Ministries.

(c) No, Sir. The process includes inter-Ministerial consultation with other concerned Ministries.

(d) Once the applicant companies provide all the required information and documents and clearances from other Ministries concerned are received, the applications are considered for permission in the minimum time frame.

Organization of Overseas Indians

†496. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS:
SHRI BALAVANT *ALIAS* BAL APTE:

Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the countries where organizations of Overseas Indians have been set up;

(b) the names of countries from where reaction against Mumbai attacks has been received either directly or through embassy;

(c) whether any plan directing against Mumbai attacks and favouring India (direct action) is being formulated; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) Concerned Indian Diplomatic Missions have reported existence of organization of Overseas Indians in the countries given in the list placed as Statement—I (*See* below).

(b) As given in the list placed as Statement—II (*See* below)

(c) and (d) Statement—III gives the requisite details.

Statement—I

Where organization of Overseas Indians has been set up

List of 39 Countries

1.	Austria	21.	Oman
2.	Botswana	22.	Papua New Guinea

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.